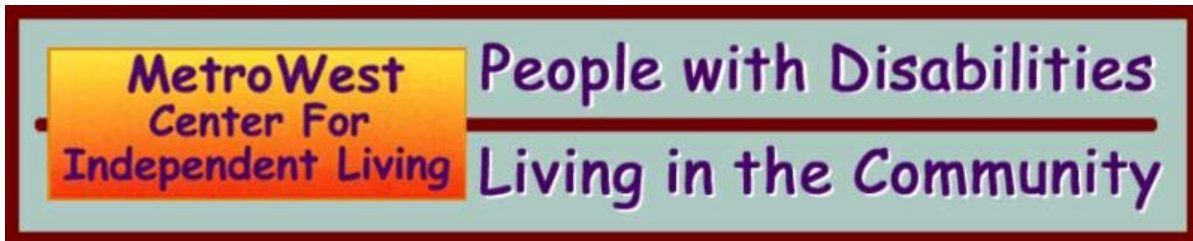


July 31, 2017



Disability Pride

While I was unable to attend the recent actions in Washington, D.C., many of our colleagues from Massachusetts and the nation went above and beyond, demanding health care as a right for everyone. *Disability activists made the difference.* We put the final nail in the coffin for the "skinny repeal" bill of July 27. We need to remain vigilant and ready to act - apparently a new attack has already begun! We know what to do when it comes.

This is the first time in many years that disability activists made the national news, and the first time that we were given credit for changing the course of legislation that is not disability specific. We are so proud of each person that contributed to this success.

Disability Pride is real! Below are stories about last week, writings on disability pride, as well as facts about the barriers still faced by people with disabilities. These articles were compiled by Mark Johnson, Director of Advocacy at the Shepherd Center in Atlanta and a long-time ADAPT organizer.

Thank you.

Paul Spooner, Executive Director

Shout Outs

From [The Nation](#): **Disability-Rights Activists are the Real Heroes of the Health Care Fight** by John Nichols, published on July 28

From [The Mary Sue](#): **Forget McCain - Thank a Red-State Protester, a Woman Senator or a Disability Rights Activist Today** by Marykate Jasper, published on July 28

From [The Huffington Post](#): **Protestors with Disabilities Deserve the Credit for Saving ObamaCare** by Elyse Wanshel, published on July 28

From [In These Times](#): **Disabled and Disobedient: How ADAPT Activists Blocked the GOP Healthcare Bill** by S. E. Smith, published on July 28

From [Common Dreams](#): **For Defeat of Trumpcare, Thank Disability Rights Activists, Not John McCain** by Jake Johnson, published on July 28

Colleen Flanagan, now with [Disability Action for America](#), is quoted in The Nation article. MWCIL has admired Colleen's energetic and passionate advocacy for the civil rights of people with disabilities since we met her at Easter Seals of MA. She has been arrested multiple times at protests; we greatly appreciate her continued work!



Colleen Flanagan receives an award for IL Youth Leadership from MWCIL in 2015.

CD: Why It's My Choice

This essay explores the need for Civil Disobedience. Last week, we saw ADAPT's civil disobedience achieve results.

... "Marches, rallies, sit ins, CD are a moral act. Through open disobedience, we take back some of the power we have lost to the institutions of society and use the power in a nonviolent way to get the opponents attention and bring about fundamental change. When real change finally occurs, it's always been about an emotional change, not an intellectual persuasion. Direct action creates emotion." ...

Please download and read the entire essay:

MS-Word: [CD.doc](#) or PDF [CD.pdf](#)

Not Afraid to Express: Standing on the Great Wall

From [Green Mountain Self-Advocates](#) - an essay about one path to inclusion and understanding by Maxwell Barrows. You can read the essay at the link above, or download the pdf [Standing on the Great Wall](#).

The Future is: You Get Proud by Practicing

From [The Disability Visibility Project](#): A poem by Laura Hershey. Written in 1991, her words have not gotten old. At the link above, you can click through to the entire poem, and listen to Alice Wong read it. Here is a short excerpt - we encourage you to read or listen to the entire poem.

You do not need
a better body, a purer spirit, or a Ph.D.
to be proud.
You do not need
a lot of money, a handsome boyfriend, or a nice car.
You do not need
to be able to walk, or see, or hear,
or use big, complicated words,
or do any of those things that you just can't do
to be proud. A caseworker
Cannot make you proud,
or a doctor.
You only need more practice.
You get proud
by practicing.

Resistance: Our Existence is Resistance

Tee Shirts sold by the [Disability Visibility Project](#). Long or short sleeved, they say: **Our Existence is Resistance**. 100% of the profits go to Adapt.

Resistance: Rolling Resistance

From [Democracy Now!](#) - This video was published July 27, 2017, and shows ADAPT arrests (don't miss Colleen Flanagan being wheeled away by a policeman!). The story is presented by Amy Goodman. A transcript is

below the video at the link above.

"Disability activists across the nation are staging historic protests in Washington, D.C., and other cities to fight the Republican effort to strip healthcare from tens of millions of people. On Tuesday, as the Senate voted to open debate, 31 protesters in the gallery were arrested, while 64 more, many in wheelchairs, were arrested in the atrium of the Hart Senate Office Building. The protests are continuing as Senate Republicans move forward with their attempts to repeal Obamacare. We speak with disability rights attorney **Stephanie Woodward** who has been arrested 16 times in recent weeks, community organizer **Ola Ojewumi**, and hip-hop artist **Kalyn Heffernan**, who recently occupied the Denver office of Sen. Cory Gardner (R-CO)."

Ola Ojewumi from [Project Ascend](#)

Stephanie Woodward from [ADAPT](#)

Kalyn Heffernan from [ADAPT](#) and [Wheelchair Sports Camp](#)

Women with Disabilities: Front and Center

From the [Women's Media Center](#) by Heather Watkins, July 27, 2017.

Women Disability Activists Front and Center in Resistance

Please read the entire article at the link above. She links to many other exceptional women activists and their stories, missions, and current focuses. Here is an excerpt:

..."As we commemorate the 27th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act's passing and the 52nd anniversary of Medicaid protections, I can't help but feel a deep sigh and wonder when we will be able to cease the fight. When we as disabled persons with intersecting identities will feel welcomed and accommodated not only on paper. When universal access will be standard practice across the board. When more of our concerns are supported and signal-boosted without a second thought. When systems that leave many of us sidelined will be dismantled and become irrelevant. When people are respected no matter their ability"...

Women with Disabilities: Women's Watch

From [Women's Watch](#): Please read this special feature on Women with Disabilities, reminding us what obstacles are different for women, and why women with disabilities need more advocacy globally. The context is the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, with a focus on the facts on discrimination and barriers for women worldwide. Keep on scrolling

- this special report is compelling.

Women with Disabilities: Crowd

The Baylor College of Medicine has the [Center for Research on Women with Disabilities](#). "The mission of the Center for Research on Women with Disabilities, also know as CROWD, is to promote, develop, and disseminate information to improve the health and expand the life choices of women with disabilities." Visit the website and learn more about the results of their studies.

JoinREV UP - Make the Disability Vote count!

For more information, visit www.revupma.org.



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